

Amendments to the claims:

1. - 3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The PNA probe set of claim 25, consisting of comprising a nucleobase sequence suitable for the analysis of *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, said PNA probe being complementary to a target sequence of *Staphylococcus epidermidis* rRNA or rDNA or its complement.

5. (Currently Amended) The PNA probe set of claim 25, consisting of comprising a nucleobase sequence suitable for the analysis of *Staphylococcus hominis*, said PNA probe being complementary to a target sequence of *Staphylococcus hominis* rRNA or rDNA or its complement.

6. (Currently Amended) The PNA probe set of claim 25, consisting of comprising a nucleobase sequence suitable for the analysis of *Staphylococcus haemolyticus*, said PNA probe being complementary to a target sequence of *Staphylococcus haemolyticus* rRNA or rDNA or its complement.

7. (Currently Amended) The PNA probe set of claim 25, consisting of comprising a nucleobase sequence suitable for the analysis of *Staphylococcus lugdunensis*, said PNA probe being complementary to a target sequence of *Staphylococcus lugdunensis* rRNA or rDNA or its complement.

8. (Currently Amended) The PNA probe set of claim 25, consisting of comprising a nucleobase sequence suitable for the analysis of *Staphylococcus saprophyticus* said PNA probe being complementary to a target sequence of *Staphylococcus saprophyticus* rRNA or rDNA or its complement.

9. (Currently Amended) The PNA probe set of claim 25, consisting of comprising a nucleobase sequence suitable for the analysis of *Staphylococcus epidermidis* and one or more other *Staphylococcus* species other than *Staphylococcus aureus*, said PNA

probe being complementary to a target sequence of Staphylococcus epidermidis rRNA or rDNA or its complement

10. (Currently Amended) The PNA probe set of claim 25, consisting of comprising a nucleobase sequence suitable for the analysis of Staphylococcus hominis and one or more other Staphylococcus species other than Staphylococcus aureus, said PNA probe being complementary to a target sequence of Staphylococcus hominis rRNA or rDNA or its complement.

11. (Currently Amended) The PNA probe set of claim 25, consisting of comprising a nucleobase sequence suitable for the analysis of Staphylococcus haemolyticus and one or more other Staphylococcus species other than Staphylococcus aureus, said PNA probe being complementary to a target sequence of Staphylococcus haemolyticus rRNA or rDNA or its complement.

12. (Currently Amended) The PNA probe set of claim 25, consisting of comprising a nucleobase sequence suitable for the analysis of Staphylococcus lugdunensis and one or more other Staphylococcus species other than Staphylococcus aureus, said PNA probe being complementary to a target sequence of Staphylococcus lugdunensis rRNA or rDNA or its complement.

13. (Currently Amended) The PNA probe set of claim 25, consisting of comprising a nucleobase sequence suitable for the analysis of Staphylococcus saprophyticus and one or more other Staphylococcus species other than Staphylococcus aureus, said PNA probe being complementary to a target sequence of Staphylococcus saprophyticus rRNA or rDNA or its complement.

14.-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) A PNA probe set consisting of SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:7 and SEQ ID NO:8.

26. (Previously Presented) The PNA probe set of claim 25, wherein the probes are differently labeled for independent analysis of two or more *Staphylococcus* species.

27. – 51. (Cancelled)

51. (Withdrawn) A kit suitable for performing an assay for analysis of one or more *Staphylococcus* species other than *S. aureus* in a sample, wherein said kit comprises:  
a) a PNA probe set according to claim 25 and b) other reagents or compositions necessary to perform the assay.

52. -62 (Cancelled)

63. (Currently Amended) A PNA probe set consisting of three PNA probes SEQ ID NO 6, SEQ ID NO: 7 and SEQ ID NO: 8, wherein the PNA probe comprising SEQ ID NO: 6 is 15 ~~nucleotides~~nucleobases in length, wherein the PNA probe comprising SEQ ID NO: 7 is 16 ~~nucleotides~~nucleobases in length and wherein the PNA probe comprising SEQ ID NO: 8 is 16 ~~nucleotides~~nucleobases in length.

64. (Previously Presented) A PNA probe set consisting of SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:7 and SEQ ID NO:8 and at least one PNA blocking probe for the analysis of one or more *Staphylococcus* species other than *S. aureus*.

65. (Previously Presented) A PNA probe set consisting of SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:7 and SEQ ID NO:8 and at least one PNA probe for the analysis of *S. aureus*.